

Claims 1-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kuntz (WO 93/09736) in view of Martin (4,631,061). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the claims. Both Kuntz and Martin disclose urine collecting apparatus -- not wound healing devices. Moreover, Applicant's recited canister serves the purpose of trapping liquid. Claim 1 has been clarified to recite a "bacterial filter" to clarify Applicant's reference to bacterial filters as opposed to liquid traps.

Applicant also traverses the rejection of each of the claims dependent from claim 1. Because the rejection of claim 1, however, has been transversed, particular detail of the reasoning for the transversal of the dependent claims is not submitted at this time.

Claim 9 was rejected for the same reasons and further in light of Martin's disclosure of a fluid sensor 40.

Each of the other independent claims, namely claims 9, 13 and 14 recite similar reference to bacterial filter and to an apparatus for stimulating wound healing.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nichols in light of Holbrook and (with regard to claim 15) further in light of Bryant. The Examiner noted his consideration of the deflector to be the portion of Applicant's disclosure of 40 that is protruding into the interior of container 14; however, there is no corresponding teaching in either Nichols or Holbrook, much less Bryant.

In view of all the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

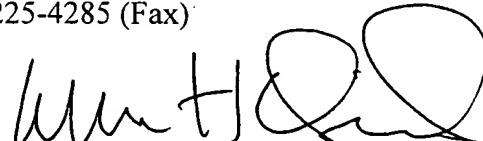
EM226165648US

10 MARCH 1997

For Deposit: 10 MARCH 1997
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express
Mail" Post Office to Addressee service under 37 CFR
10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington
D.C. 20231

KINETIC CONCEPTS, INC.
P.O. Box 659508
San Antonio, TX 78265-9508
(210) 255-4545
(210) 225-4285 (Fax)

By:


William H. Quirk, IV
Reg. No. 33,996